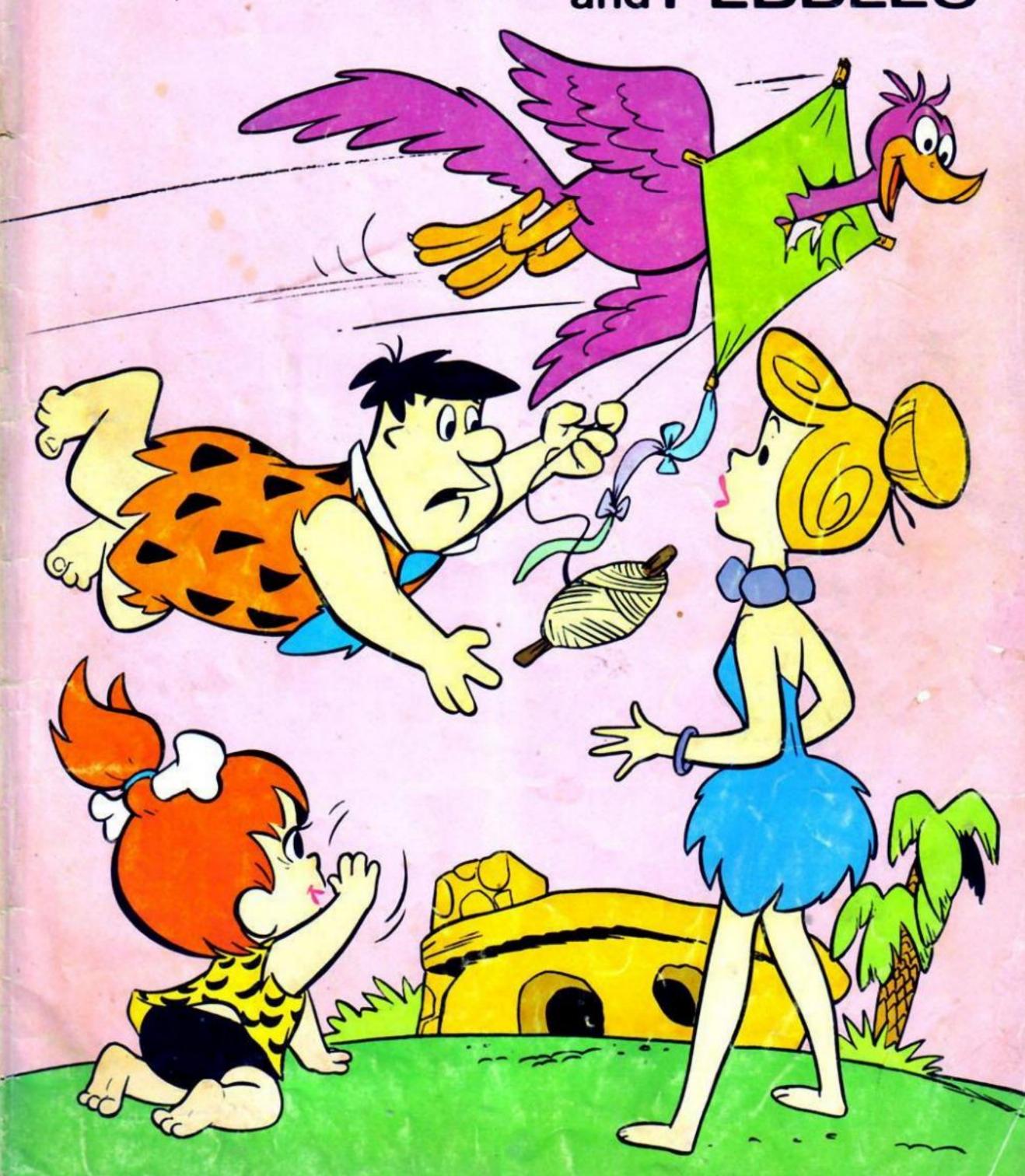


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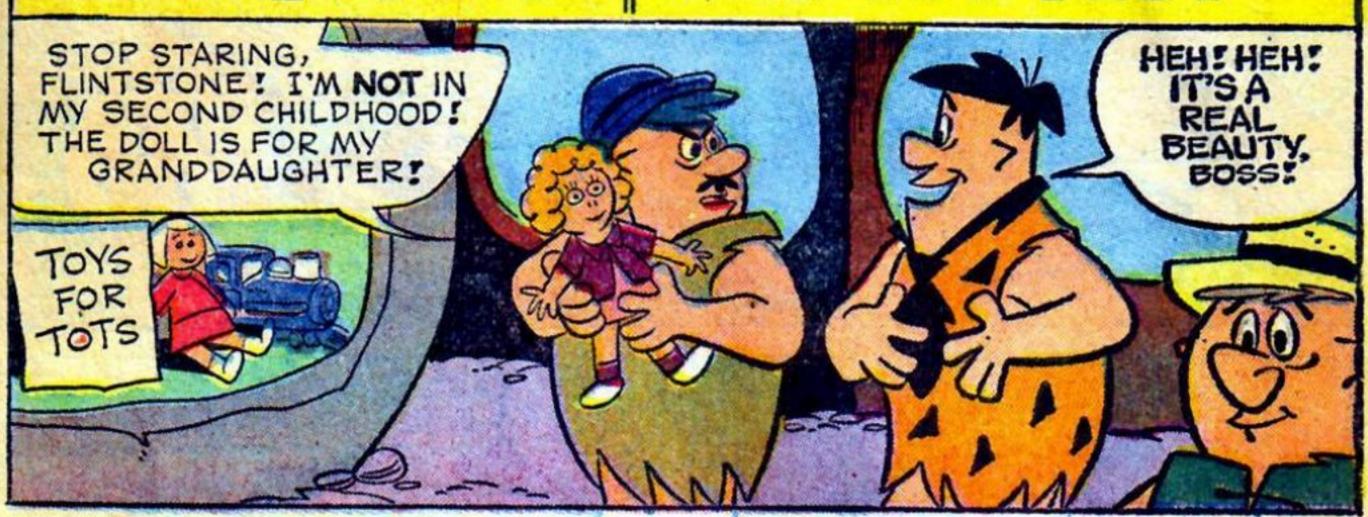
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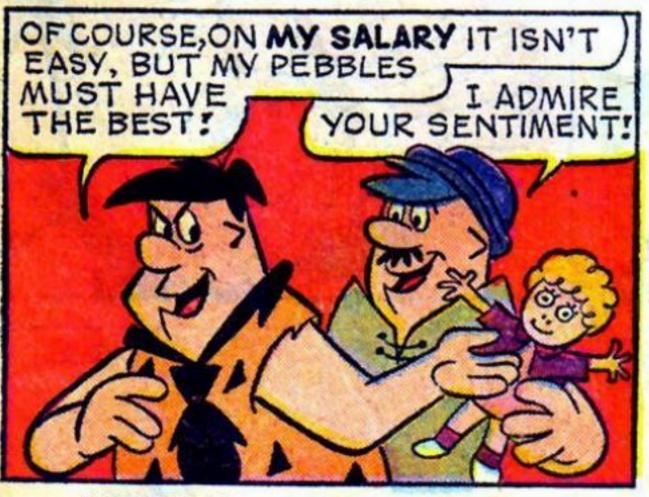
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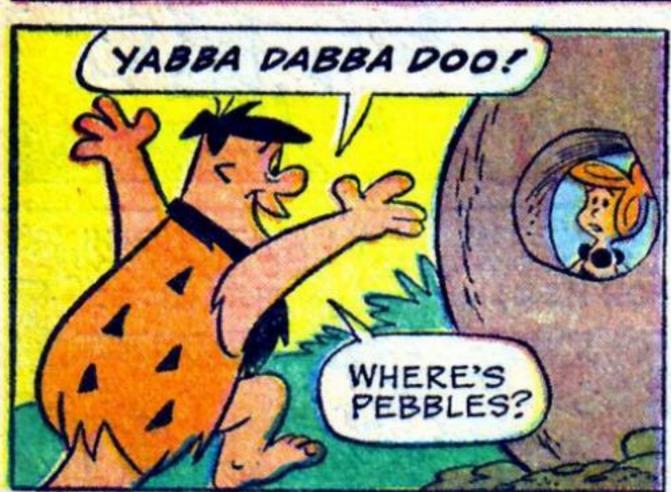




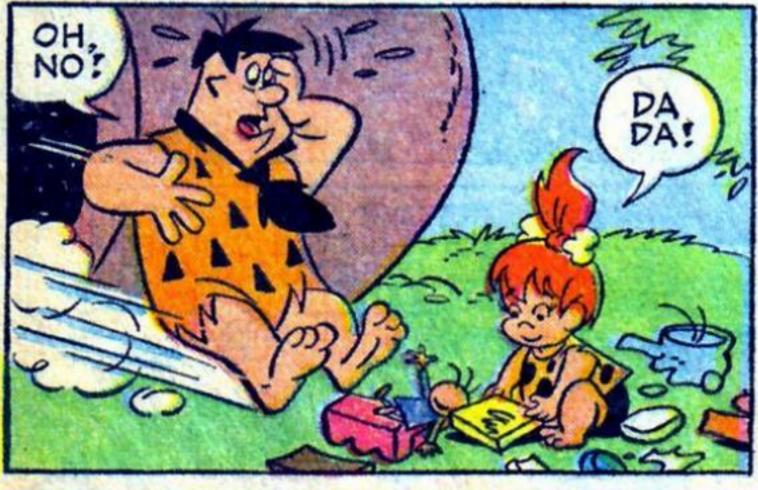


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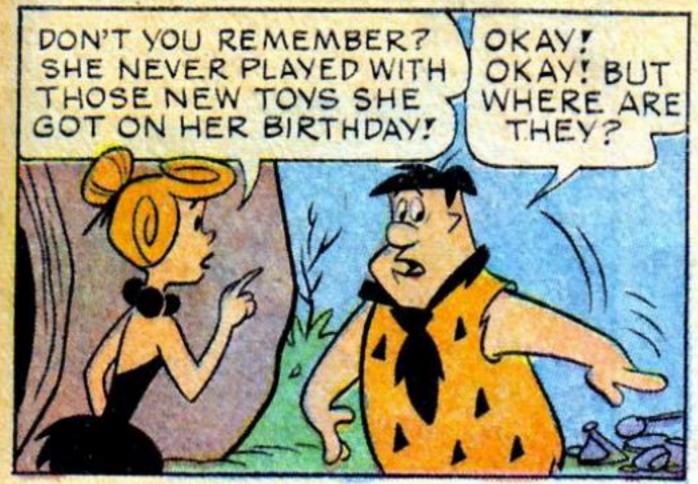






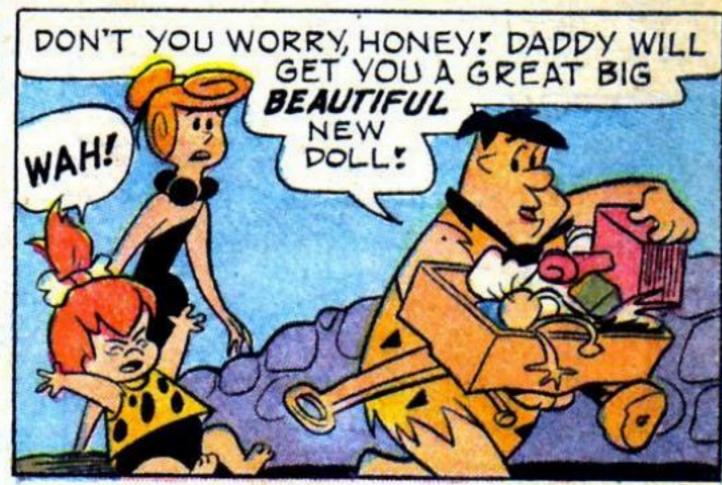
















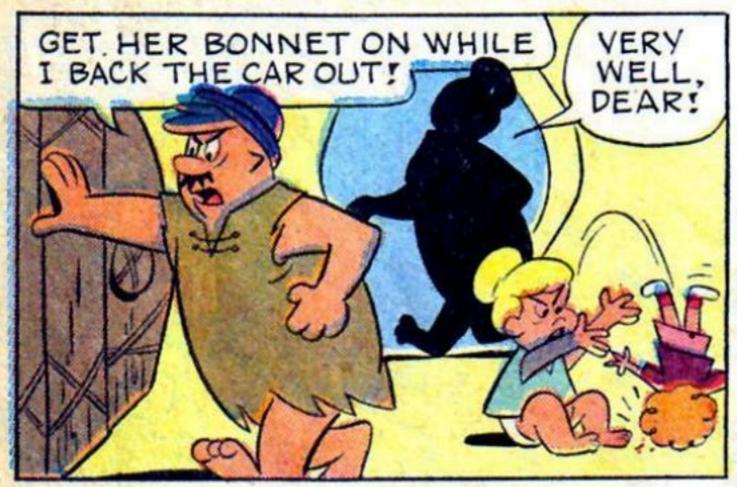


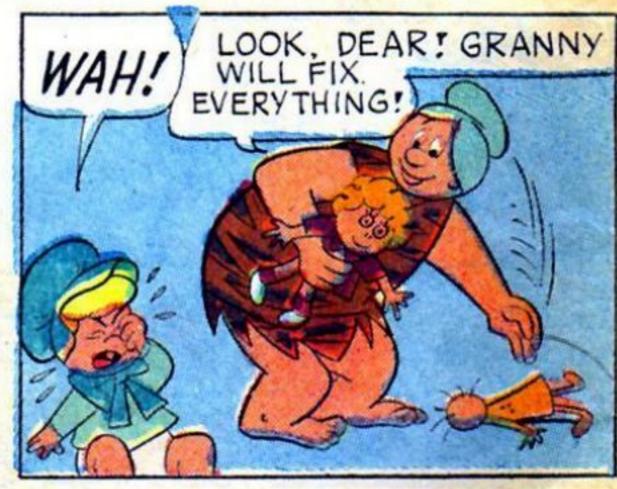




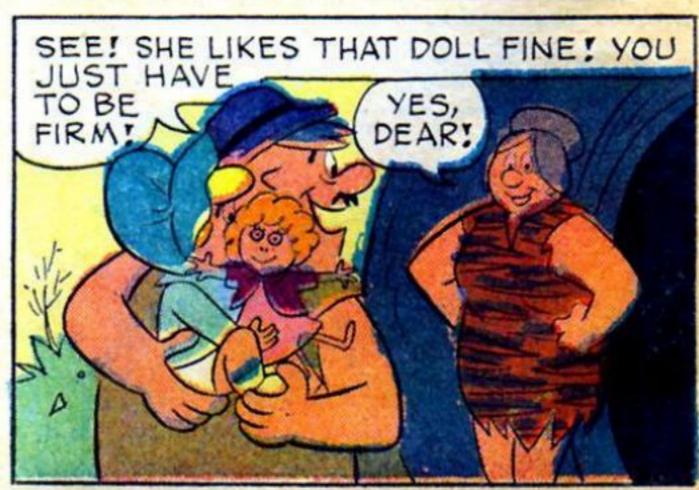






























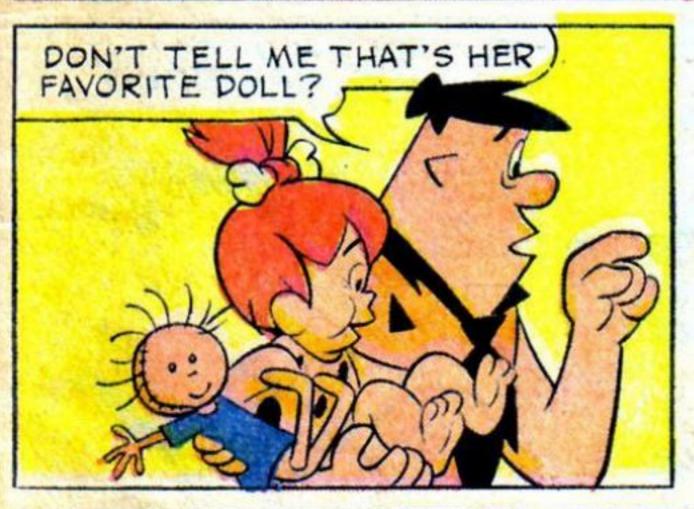


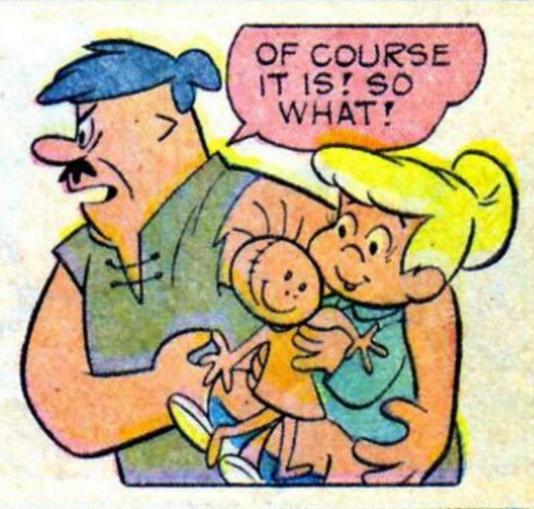








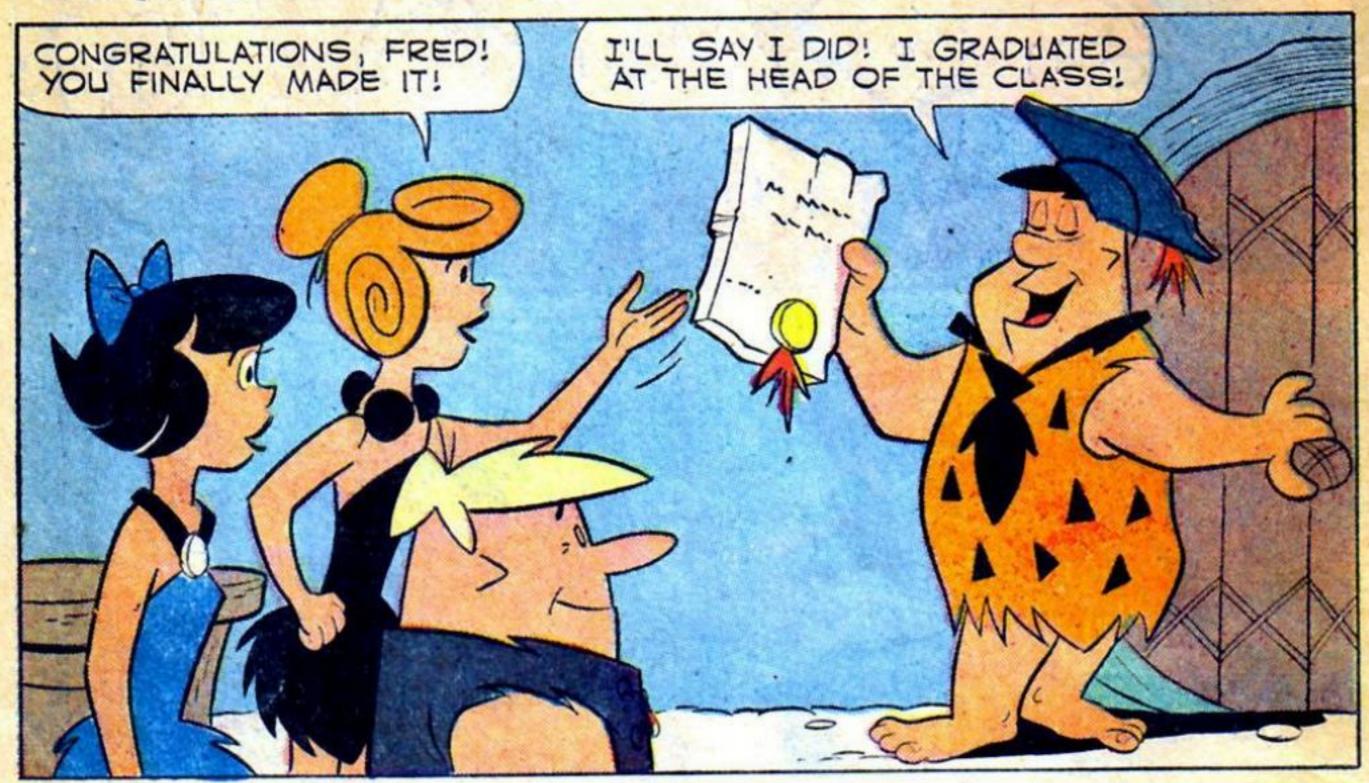


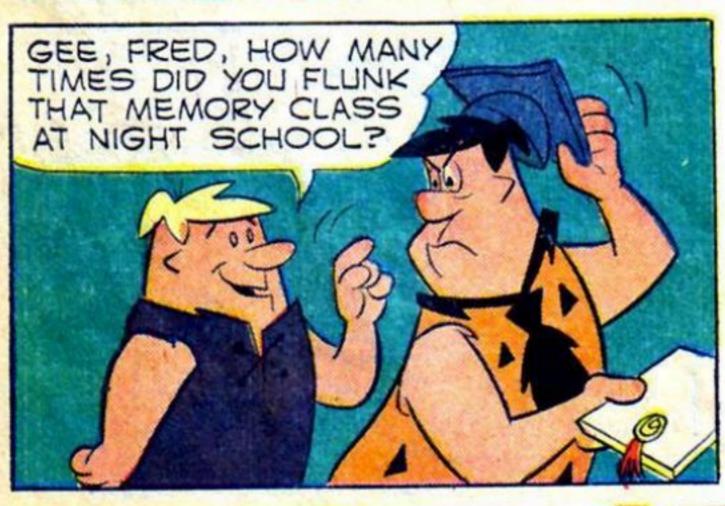




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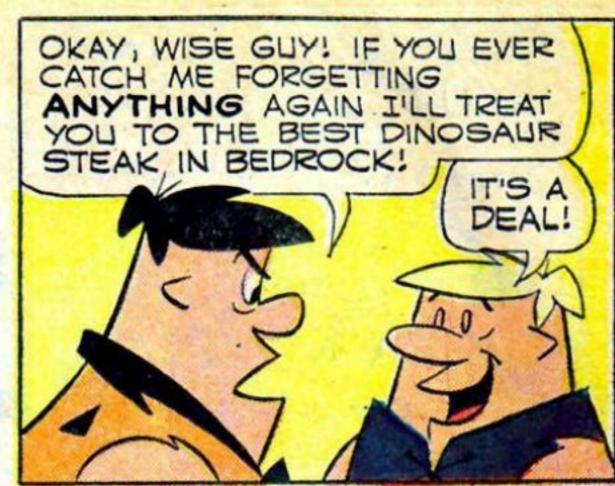


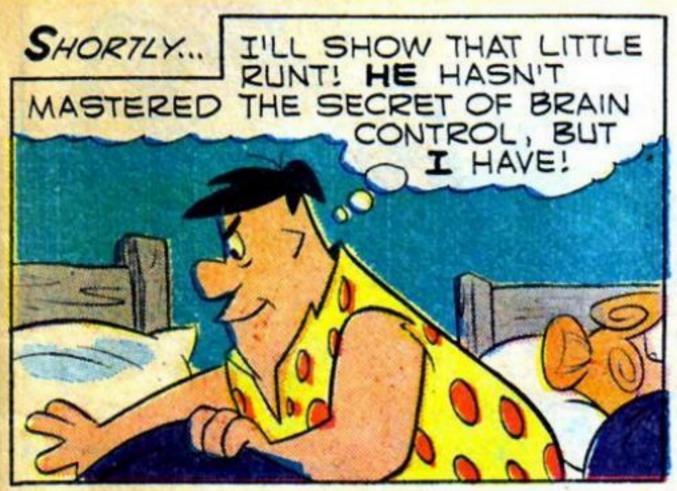


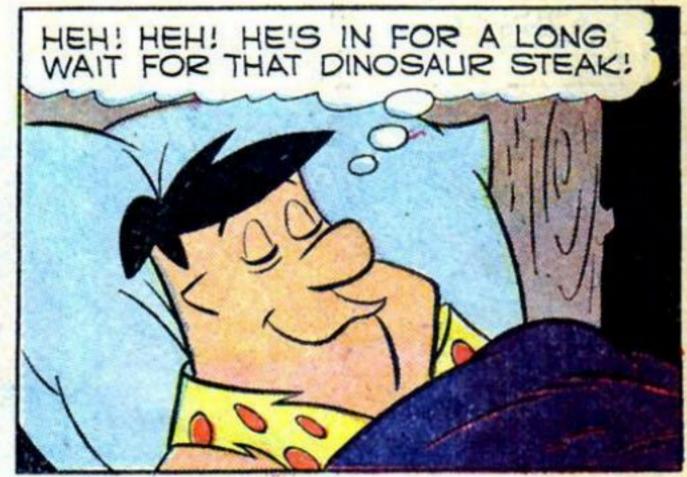




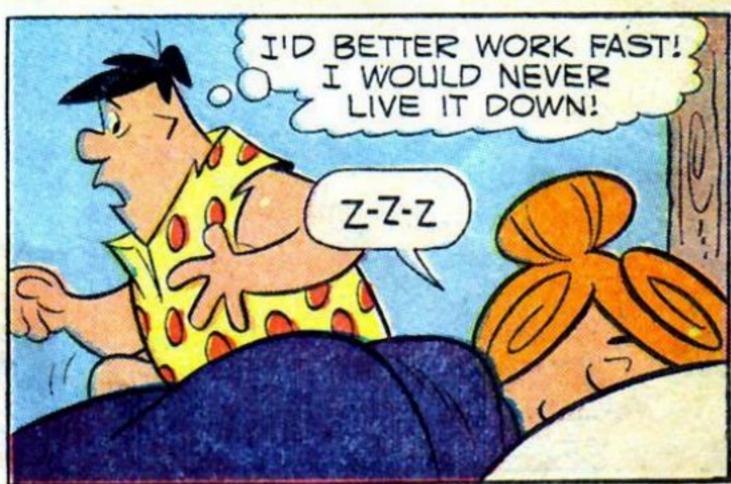






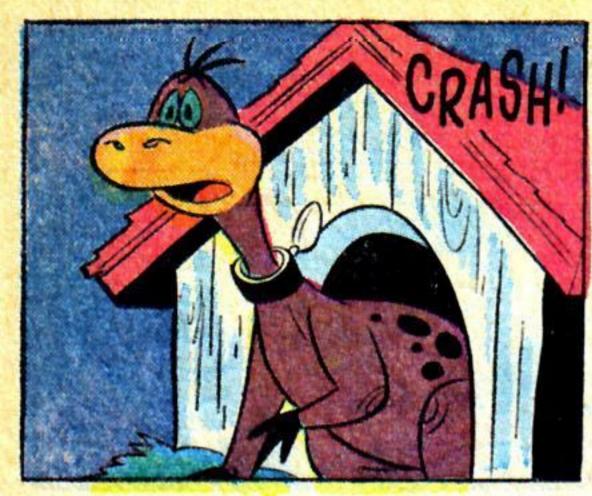








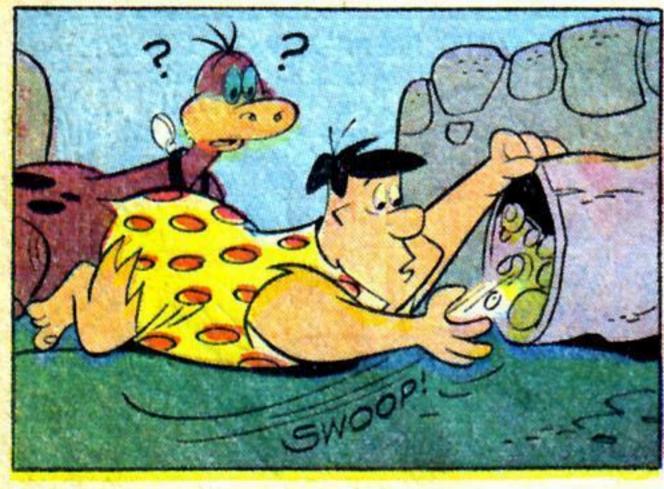


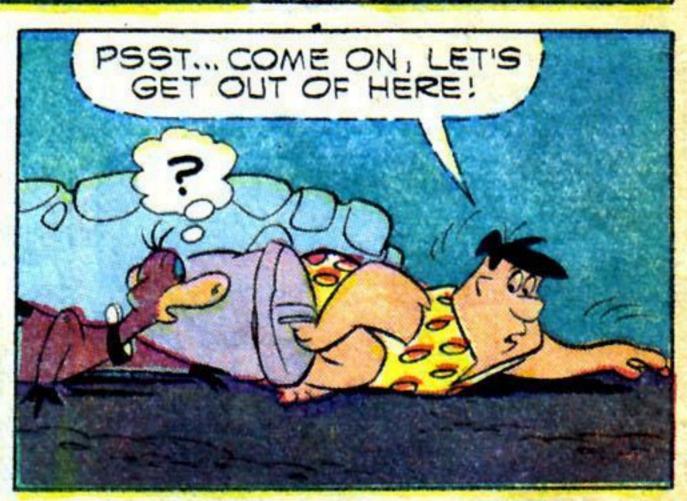


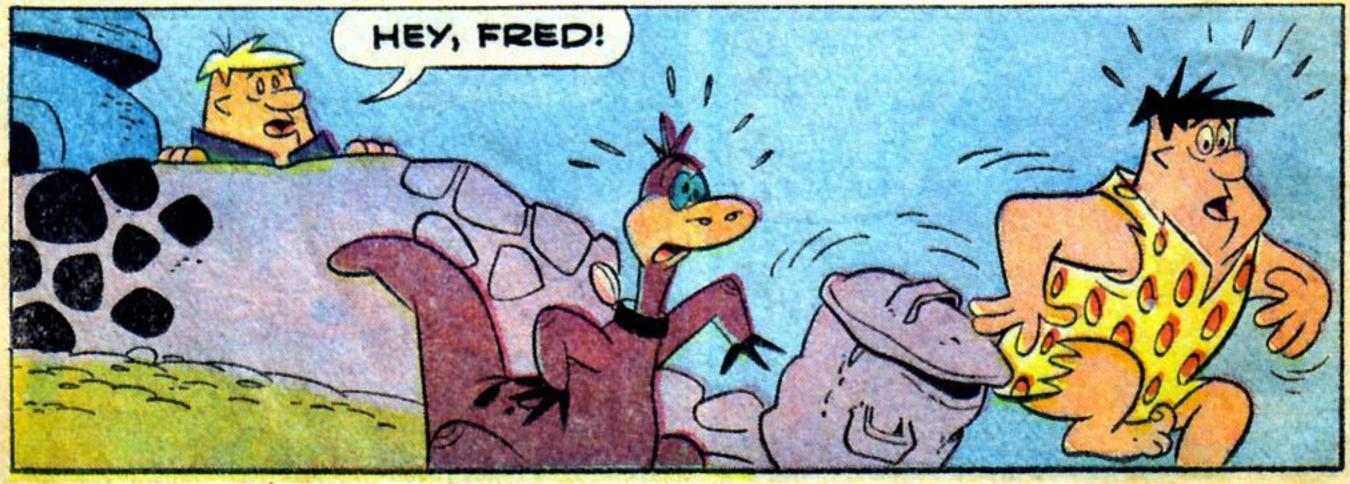


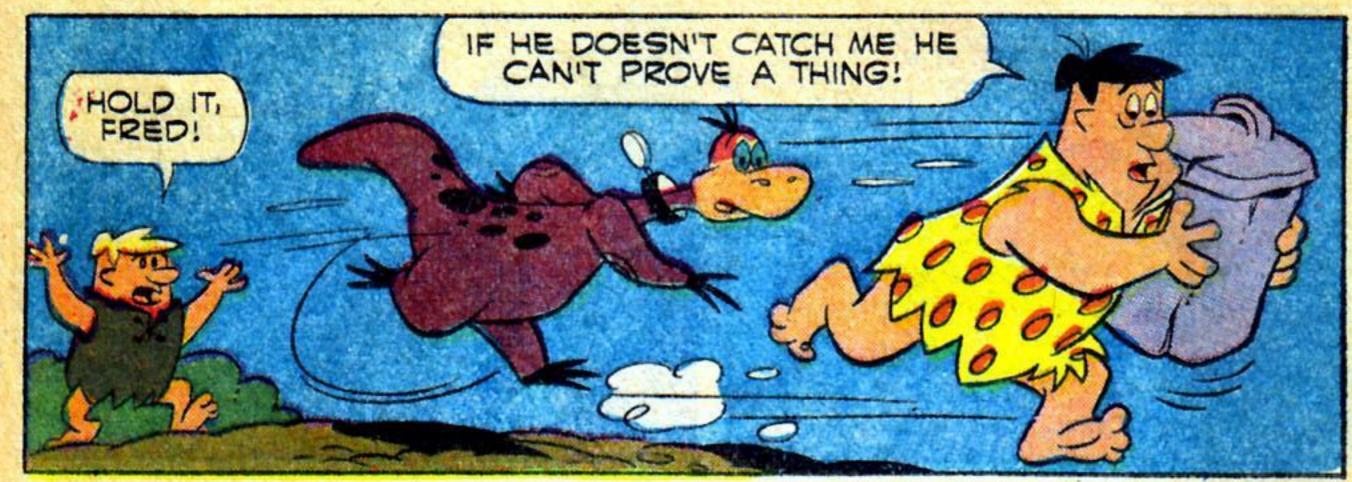




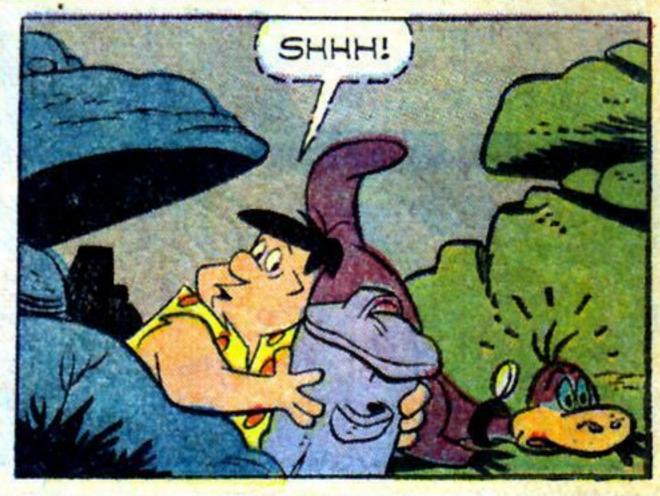


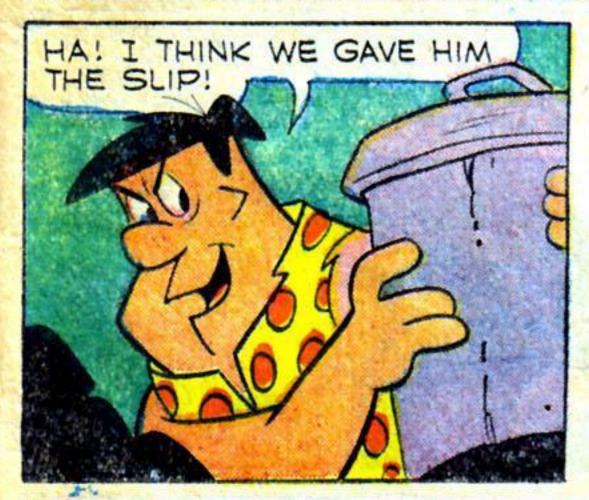


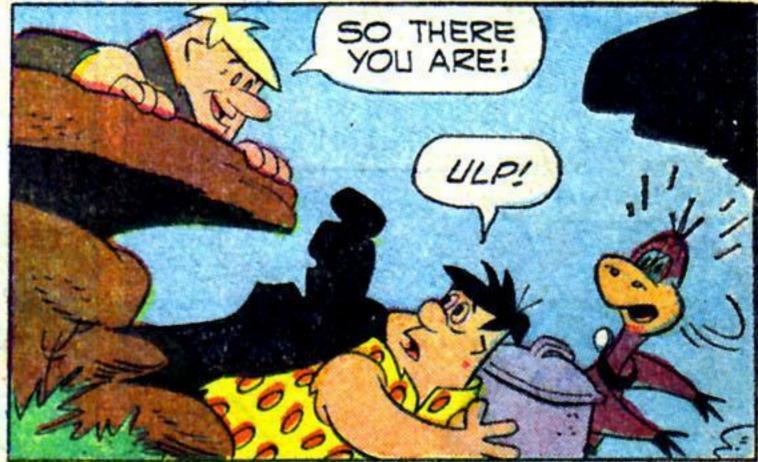


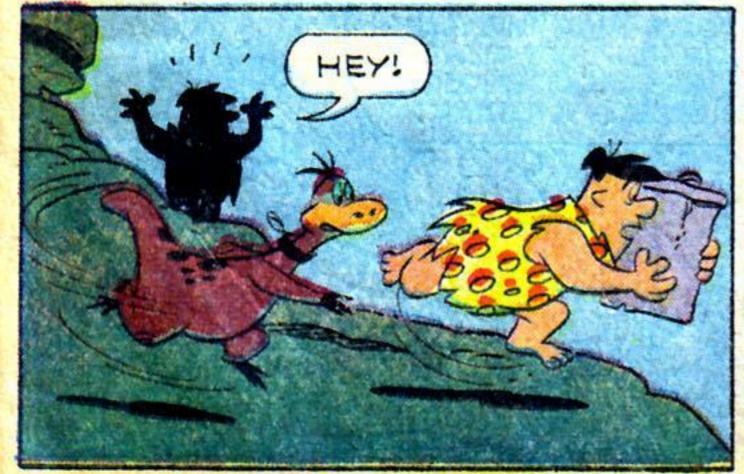


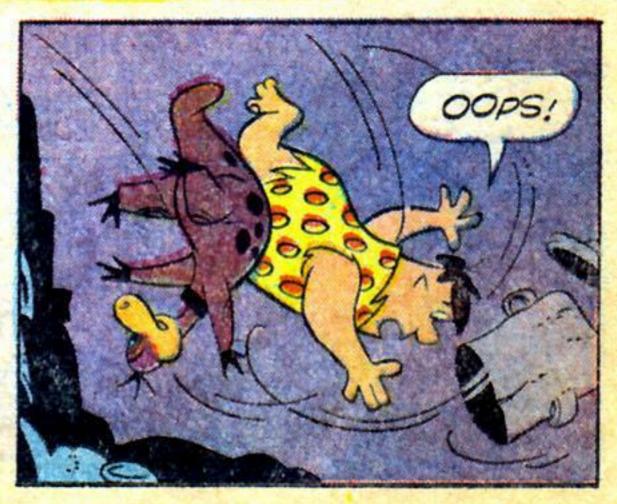








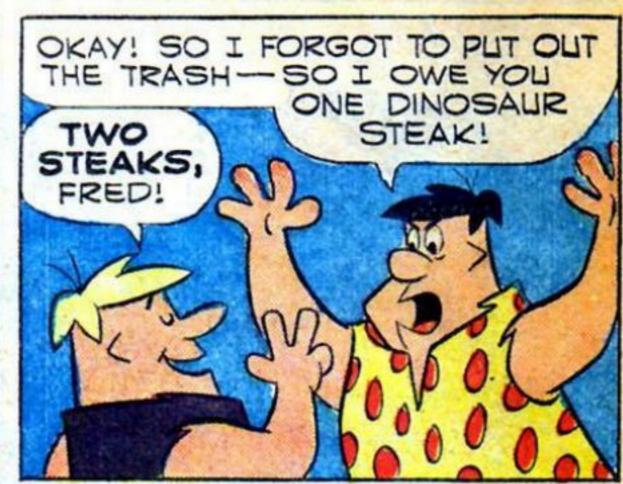












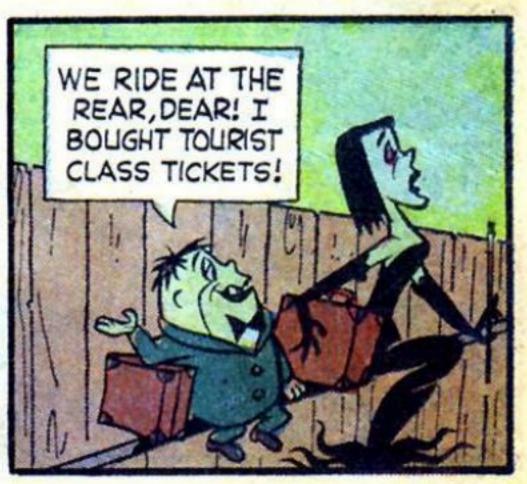














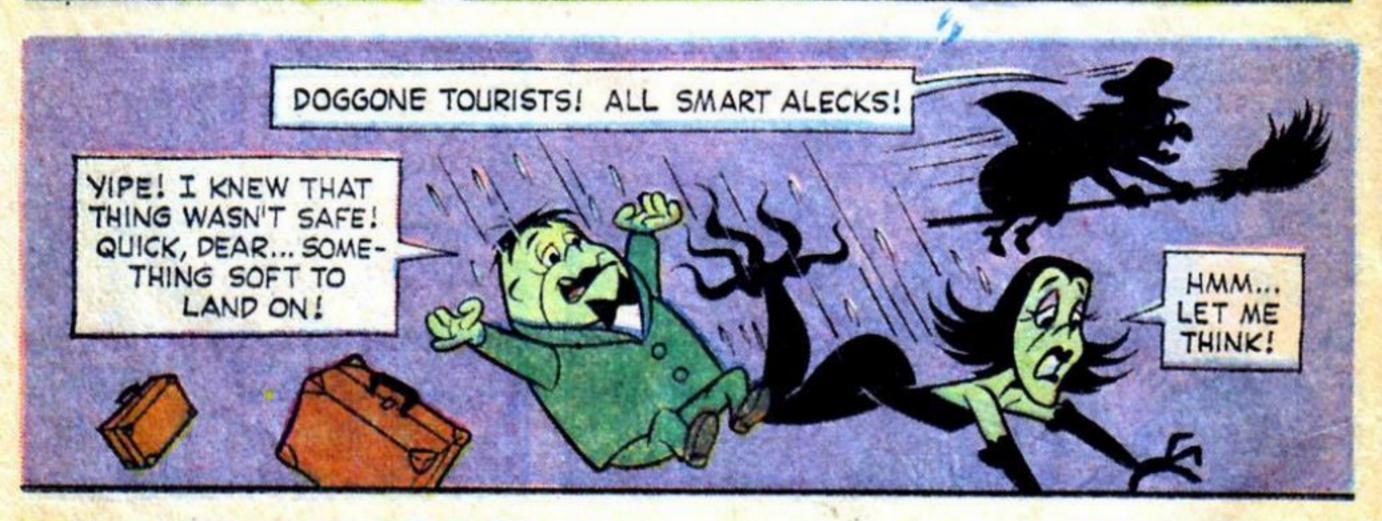














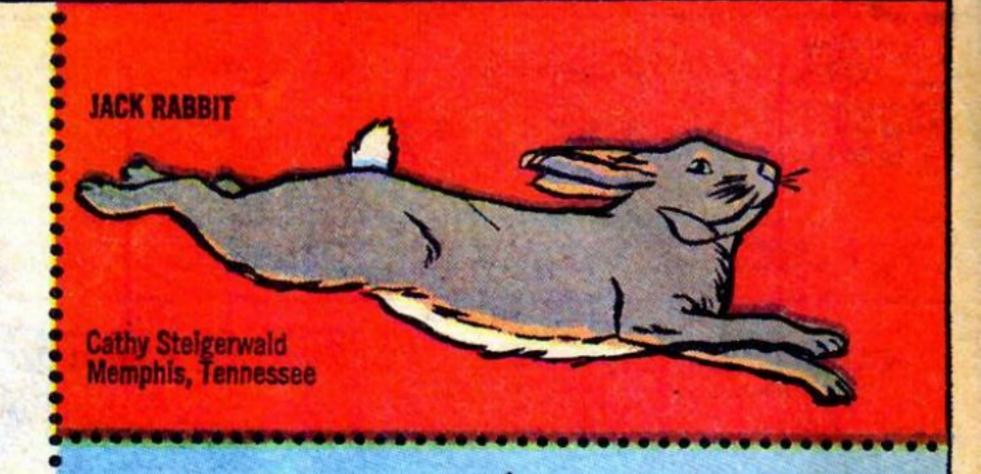


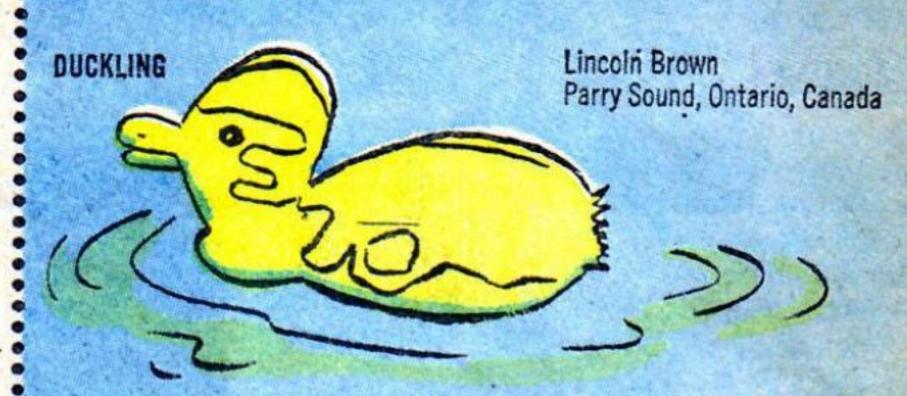


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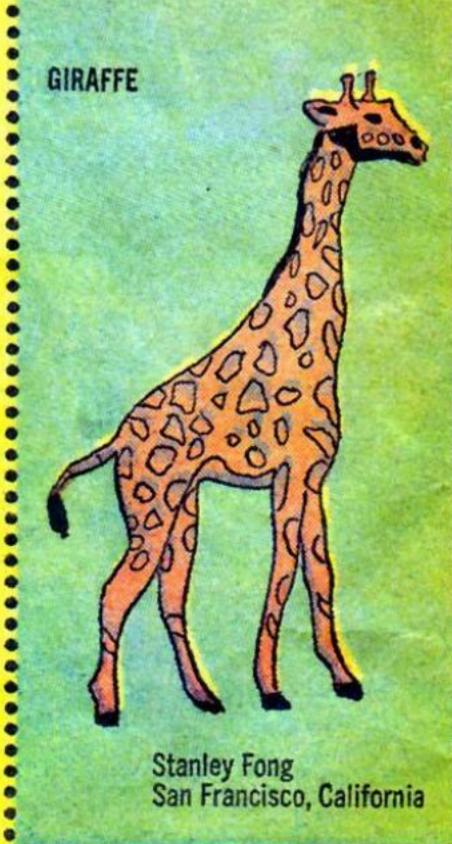
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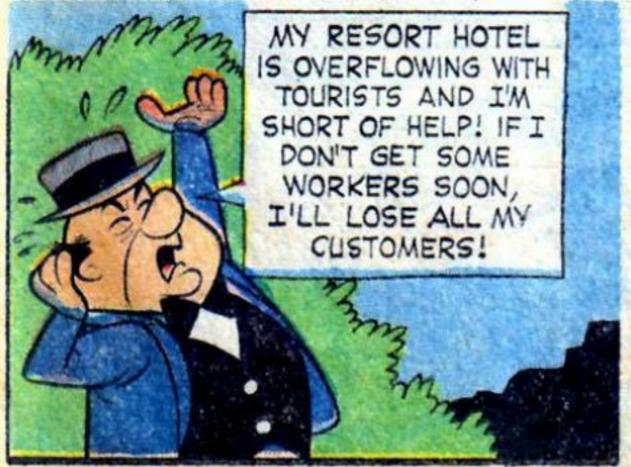








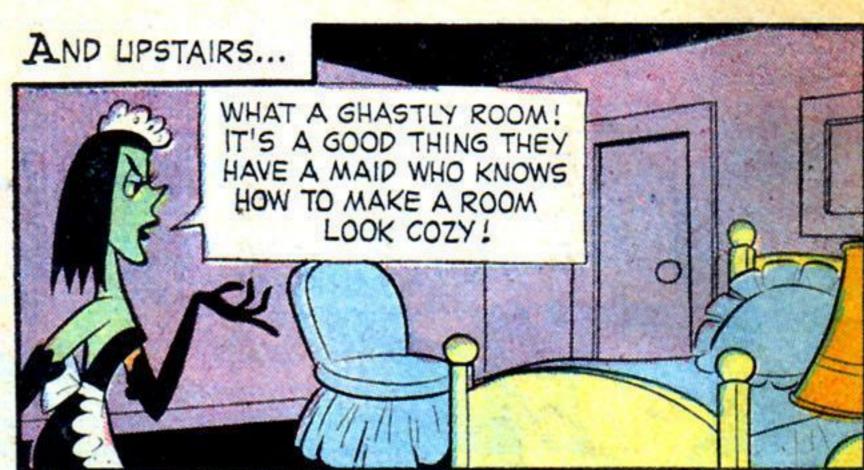


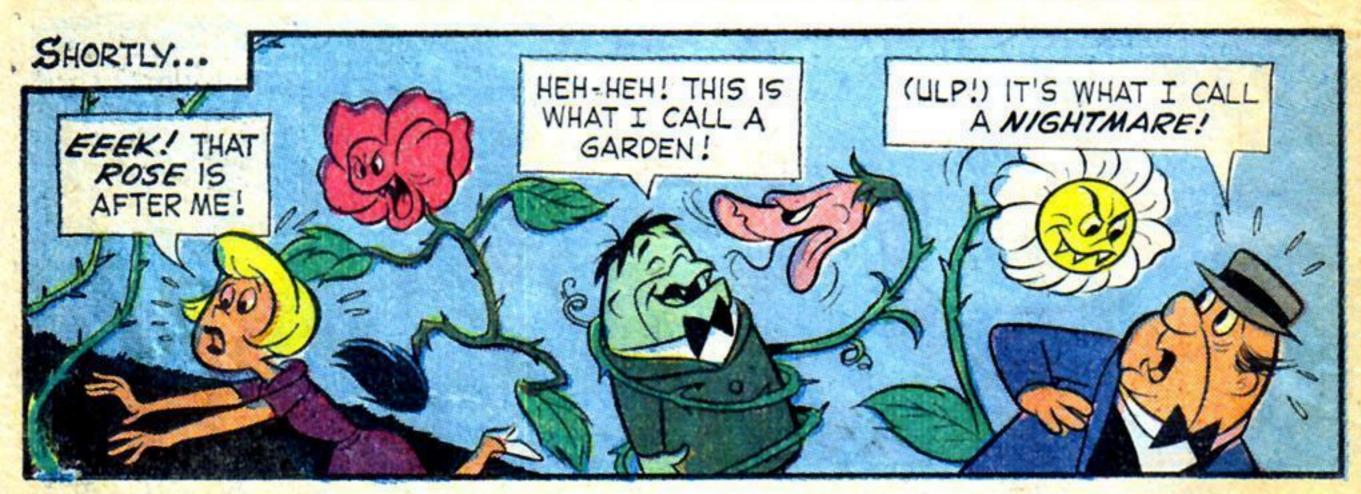




























Perry Gunnite dashed into the Dankee Stadium locker room and found Homer Runn sitting dejectedly on the bench.

"I've lost my lucky bat," sighed Homer.
"I can't find it anyplace. We've got a big
game coming up in an hour and I just can't
get a hit without my lucky bat! If you don't
trace it for me by game time, I'm done, It's
got a big 'R' on the handle."

"Don't worry, Homer," replied Perry. "I'll find that bat or my name isn't Homer Runn. Oh, wait a minute, that's your name, isn't it? Well, I'll find your bat, anyway."

Soon, Perry returned sadly to the locker room to give Homer the bad news. He'd gone through the whole stadium . . . even searched under all the seats, and he had only found a lot of used chewing gum.

Homer was very upset. "I might as well take a shower and go home!" he grumbled to his teammate, Peter Popoff.

When Homer opened the shower door he got a big surprise. Two kids were huddled inside with his baseball bat. They dashed from the locker room before Homer could grab them.

"Save your strength for the game," Perry yelled. "I'll catch them, or my name isn't ... isn't ... well, I'll catch them..."

Perry chased the two kids out of the stadium and across the street, cleverly cornering them in a vacant lot.

"We dropped it in the street," cried one of the little boys. "Honest!"

Sure enough, the bat was lying in the street. But before Perry could get to it, a big truck rolled right over the bat, breaking it into splinters.

Perry was very angry with the boys, but his heart softened a little when they broke into tears and told them Homer was their hero and they only wanted the bat for a souvenir. He figured the kids had been punished enough and let them go. Perry might not be able to remember his own name, but he could remember what it's like to be a kid.

He walked back into the stadium, hating to tell Homer the news. As he passed a rack of bats, he had an idea. He grabbed one of them and sneaked into a side room.

"This lucky bat stuff is superstition anyway," he mused. "I'll carve an 'R' on this bat, and Homer won't know the difference."

Then Perry noticed that the bat already had a big "P" carved on it. But that was no problem. He just added a little line and the "P" became an "R."

"I found your bat, Homer," smiled Perry.

"Hooray! I better get right into the game." shouted Homer, grabbing the bat from Perry's hand.

Perry's plan worked out fine. Homer didn't know the difference, and he made six home runs with the "lucky" bat . . . leading his team to victory.

After the game, Perry decided to tell Homer the truth so he wouldn't rely on silly things like lucky bats.

Down in the locker room with the other players he told Homer how he altered the "P" to an "R" and gave him another bat.

"Gee, I guess I don't need a lucky bat after all," grinned Homer.

"Grrrr! I do!" yelled Peter Popoff. "That was my lucky bat with a 'P' you swiped. I didn't have if and I struck out six times!"

He lunged angrily at Perry.

But the story has a happy ending. Perry arrived safe at home before Peter Popoff could strike him out. . . out cold, that is.







